

Why would you dam the Greenbrier River?



Photo: J. B. Hester. River House, West Virginia



Imagine investing your money, your energy, your dreams into your home or business, for as many as thirty or forty years, and then having to move. And on top of that, having the market value of your investment be half what you originally paid.

Welcome to the property owners' dilemma in the flood-ravaged Greenbrier River area.



Since 1985, the Greenbrier River has flooded three times, causing a total of over \$250 million dollars in damage. This doesn't cover the emotional toll on those who lose their belongings - and have to clean up again and again and again. This cannot go on. The impact to our communities and our economy is too great.



WHAT BENEFITS WOULD A DAM OFFER?

Existing homes and businesses would regain their market value. New homes and businesses would be able to locate in what's now the flood plain, giving much needed economic growth to the Greenbrier River Valley.

In addition, building a dam would create a 3,000 acre lake, bringing in additional jobs, recreational opportunities and added quality of life.

With the dam, water release in the summertime will guarantee the necessary water levels and flow to sustain and provide for water and sewage treatment - again, leading the way to additional economic growth. And boating and recreation in the Greenbrier River will then be enjoyed during the summer months as well.

WHAT ALTERNATIVES ARE THERE?

None. The Corps of Engineers have studied this problem, and have concluded that a dam is the best solution. Floodwalls, damming



tributaries, buying property and relocating everyone in the flood plain are too expensive or don't meet the needs of the people.

AREN'T SUPPORTERS OF THE DAM JUST TRYING TO MAKE MONEY?

No. Supporters understand that, for the communities along the Greenbrier River, this is the key to a vibrant and economically strong future.

WHAT ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT?

The dam will not change the course of the River. It will not adversely affect wildlife or plant life. It will enhance all the positive reasons why people and businesses locate here in the first place, while eliminating the risk they face every time it rains.

CAN WE AFFORD A \$110 MILLION DAM?

Can we not afford it? Since 1985, 250 million dollars has been spent by the Federal and State governments for flood recovery. These are our tax dollars, being spent for something that is unnecessary. And it doesn't include money spent by individuals and local businesses to recover from the devastation - every time a flood occurs.

The money will be spent one way or another. Let's spend it wisely.



It has four bedrooms. A lovely flower garden.
A back door that squeaks just a bit.
A kitchen that's finally just the right shade of blue.

AND IT'S WORTH LESS THAN HALF OF WHAT IT SHOULD BE.

Why? Because it's in the flood plain of the Greenbrier River. And flooding is not only part of the Greenbrier's past, it will continue to flood in the future.

The mighty Greenbrier River gives us so much.
But it takes away from us, too. Floods that devastate lives and lower property values. The low summertime water levels that hinder water and sewage treatment plants. And the loss of economic growth.

The solution is right in front of you...
a dam on the Greenbrier River.

It simply makes sense.



HOW DO I GET INVOLVED? A majority of people, the County Commissions, the Town Governments in Pocahontas, Greenbrier, Monroe and Summers counties have said "yes" to a dam on the Greenbrier River.

You, too can get involved. Write to:

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd

Member, U.S. Senate
311 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller, IV

Member, U.S. Senate
109 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

405 Capitol Street, Suite 608
Charleston, WV 25301

The Honorable Robert Wise

Member, U.S. House of Representatives
2367 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nick Joe Rahall, II

Member, U.S. House of Representatives
2307 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cecil Underwood

Governor, State of West Virginia
State Capitol
West Wing
Charleston, WV 25305

Or get in touch with your County Commissioners, Town Mayors or a member of the Greenbrier Valley Improvement Association, P.O. Box 1124, Lewisburg, WV 24901.

Why dam the Greenbrier?

BECAUSE OUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT!